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- ATZ Stalin

6. ATZ Stalin (Azotno-Torov Zavod - The nitro-fertilizer plant) is composed of the following branches:
- (a) Tzeh Obogatizelna Stantsiya - coal filtering station (purifying station)
  - (b) Tzeh Vazduhosabiratelna Stantsiya - air plant which collects air from the atmosphere and distributes it over various sections of the plant
  - (c) Serotchistka - sulphur processing station

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- (d) Destructive distillation of coal department - to extract caustic ammonia
- (e) Nitric acid department (with a blueprinted crew of 160 persons)
- (f) Natriev Nitrat department (artificial fertilizer)

7. "It includes the following technical departments:

- (a) Mechanical repair department
- (b) Energoobiedinenie (electro-technical department)
- (c) Strugari (turnery) department; (girls as well as men are employed in this department.)
- (d) Casting department
- (e) carpentry department

Another thirty or so small sections are connected with these major departments.

8. "The ATZ Stalin plant comprises about 40 buildings, mostly of reinforced concrete.
9. "An air line is scheduled to link the coal mine Maritza with the plant itself, (not with the Power Station, Maritza 3).
10. "Eighty per cent construction work on the plant has been already completed. The Sulphur Processing station has been finished entirely and put in operation. This department was blueprinted to be finished December, 1950. On December 21, 1950, furnaces were put in operation in the department, and it was hailed all over the country that the plan was executed.
11. "The production of this department amounts to 18 to 20 tons of sulphuric acid per day. Pyrite is brought from the pyrite mine of Kardjali (on the railway line close to the Turkish border). All the production is taken by rail tanks to the military factory at Kazanlyk. This is the biggest explosive factory built just before the war by French.

Delivery of Materiel

12. "Most of the equipment both for ATZ Stalin and the power station of Maritza 3 has been delivered from the USSR. Only a small part has come from Czechoslovakia. Part of the planes for planing machines and emeries for grinding machines were delivered from Czechoslovakia. In June one of the machine transports came 20 days later than scheduled, resulting in the fact that the workmen who were assigned to install these machines remained completely idle. Such delays in deliveries are rather a common feature in today's Bulgaria. All the machines are delivered to a special commission composed of Bulgarians who must check them and record all damages. These reports are further submitted to Soviet experts who sometimes (not always) check these deficiencies.
13. "Most of the machines delivered from the USSR are heavy, rough manufacture not requiring skilled and precise finish. Auxiliary equipment - tractors, trucks, cranes - have functioned well to date. However, a big electric crane, of the average lifting capacity of 13 tons, was delivered. This crane is standing completely useless and idle. It uses so much electric energy that when it was put in operation it took all the energy from the other installations - and still could not lift its load. The experiment was repeated several times, finally the crane was put aside not to be used.
14. "The total completion of Stalin plant is scheduled for 18 November 1951. It should not be delayed more than 2-3 months.

Personnel Procedure

15. "Applicants seeking work at Dimitrovgrad have to put their applications through a proper cadre section. The application must be accompanied by a complete biography revealing all professional and political activities. Then the applicant is told to go back home and wait. During this time the cadre writes to the local branch of

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the Dimitrov's Youth Organization and from there gets a full description of the applicant and all his personal and family data (parents, brothers, sisters etc), as well as an opinion as to whether he can be entrusted with work at Dimitrovgrad. In case of a negative opinion the applicant is not notified of the decision. When he comes again and asks for a job he is told that there is no work available for him. This is an obvious lie since others are at the same time hired for the same work.

16. "About 60 per cent of the workers employed at present at Dimitrovgrad are technicians and skilled workers who have been assigned for that work and sent by their local authorities. They are there for a certain period of time. Their life is very difficult as a rule since their families have to stay in their permanent place of residence and their pay is not high enough to cover the expenses of upkeeping two households. The result is that both they and their families are starving and struggling desperately for existence. So when the term for which they have been assigned to Dimitrovgrad finally runs out, they ask the authorities to be allowed to go back home. As a rule they meet with a refusal. There have been a few cases when a worker has gone home in spite of the refusal. At once a wire follows him to his local authorities stating that he had left his place of employment without permission and therefore cannot be granted a permit to work anywhere else. So after a time when such an escapee has been unsuccessful in finding new work, he returns to Dimitrovgrad and waits for the moment when he will not be needed there any more.

17. "These workers get their monthly pay on the 7-8th of the following month. They send home a half or even more. For a few days they live decently. Then about the 15th of the month, many do not even have enough money to buy bread. So on the 18th some of them get 2-3,000 lew in advance. Many of them, suffering a desperate longing for their homes, wives and children, resort to drinking. Drinking, which used to be rather an exceptional occurrence in Bulgaria, has become nowadays a common habit.

#### Housing

18. "About 180 housing blocks have already been built for employees and workers of the Dimitrovgrad plants. These are three-story houses about 45-50 m. long and 20-25 m. wide with three entrances from one side and two from the other. They are to house 12 families. A family is assigned a little apartment of one room and a kitchen. At present two lodgers are moreover assigned to such a family to be housed in the kitchen. Only permanent workers can live in these houses. Those who are assigned for a limited period are housed in the barracks built earlier for labor brigades, or in attics over the plant. Barracks are equipped with two rows and two levels of boards with straw mattresses. One blanket is allocated for 2 persons. More or less the same accommodation exists in attics. There is no bath of any kind. The only way to wash is to go under a tap of water usually about 25 metres from the barracks. Toilets are also located in such spots. There is no place to heat even a pot of water.

#### Food

19. "Workers mostly eat in the canteens but some of them also live on dry food. Engineers, technicians and administrative personnel have their own canteens, where entrance is permitted only on special passes issued by the plant administration office. A dinner there costs 150-180 lew. The same dinner with beer and a small extra cost 250-300 lew. The pay of a chief engineer at ATZ Stalin amounts to 26,000 lew per month. Other engineers and technicians get 18-22,000.

20. "In workers' canteens breakfast, lunch and dinner cost 1,800 lew for 15 days. They are composed of the following courses:

Breakfast	tea and marmalade or jam
Lunch	soup (hot water with a few grains of rice) a meat course (80-100 grams) fruit compote made of bad dried apples
Supper	beans with oil and jam, sometimes macaroni

Bread can be obtained on coupons. The black bread is very bad. The average allocation for a worker is 600 grams per day; for heavy workers - 800 grams. 800 gr of bread on coupons costs 30 lew, without coupons 80 lew. White bread is only for Russians. It can be purchased with great difficulty without coupons for 150 lew. In order to be served in a worker's canteen one originally had to wait on the average

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about 50 minutes. In June the number of the canteens was greatly increased. At present a worker can be served in about 15 minutes.

Health

21. "Both plants (Stalin and Maritza) employ at present about 5,000 workers. There is no hospital of any kind for them. There are only two doctors. In the village of Dimitrovgrad, the population of which is now about 20,000, there is a small hospital - 2 doctors and 3 nurses. This hospital also takes care of emergency cases among the workers of the plant. The distance between the plant and the village is about 2.5 kms. There is also a pharmacy in the village. There is not one at the plant. No medicines, except the most simple ones, are available.
22. "A worker can be excused from work only by a doctor and only when he is running a very high fever. For being absent from work without a doctor's certificate one is punished by a fine of 1,000 to 2,000 lew. For a few cases of unexcused absence a worker is accused of sabotage, called 'fascist' and punished in a penal way.
23. "Gravely sick workers are sent to the district hospital at Haskovo (18 kms). Only local doctors can decide whether a worker should be sent to the hospital. As a rule there is no place in the Haskovo hospital. It often happens that a worker wounded at the plant dies during his transportation to the hospital. Radi Dimov, a young sportsman and a good worker, died in such a way after a fatal accident at the plant.

Security

24. "Both Stalin and Maritza 3 have their own uniformed militia, independent of the one which is in the village of Dimitrovgrad. The plant militia numbers at least 200 people. These militia men check passes when workers enter the plants and search the workers when they leave. The bulk of the militia men are recruited among the illiterate gypsies. They guard the plant. This summer civil guards, recruited from Communist workers, were added to help the militia. In spite of these precautions, sabotage acts are almost a daily occurrence in the plants. In most cases they consist of a break in the flow of the electric current. Then Trudowak (soldiers of labor brigades) are blamed, since it is known that they are an army of the enemies of the state. Many times on walls or in form of leaflets workers can read such slogans as 'Death to Chervenkov', 'Down with slavery' etc.
25. [REDACTED]

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